(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the States which would be connected through the river route ;

(d) whether the problem of devastating floods in the Brahmaputra every year would be tackled ; and

(e) if so, the details of action plan ?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The National Waterway No.1 i.e. the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia and National Waterway No.2 i.e., the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya are connected through the Sunderbans waterway route and the waterways through Bangladesh under the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India and Bangladesh. Inland vessles ply between Calcutta/Haldia in NW-1 and Pandu in NW-2.

(c) The river route connects the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam.

(d) and (e) Linking of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers as National Waterways to facilitate navigational links is not a flood related activity.

Decline in Cargo Traffic in Kolkata and Mumbai Ports

3756. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been massive decline in the cargo traffic in Kolkata and Mumbai Ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of drop of the cargo traffic for each of the last three years showing the percentage of decline ; and

(c) the action Government have taken or propose to take to streamline the existing cargo handling system in the above ports and other important ports of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of cargo handled at Kolkata Dock System and Mumbai Port Trust during last three years

along with the percentage decline over the immediately preceding year are given below :—

Year	Kolkata Dock System		Mumbai Port Trust	
	Million tones	% variation over previous Year	Million tones	% variation over previous Year
1998-99	9.16	15.2	30.97	(-)3.5
1999-2000	10.31	12.6	30.41	(-)1.8
2000-01	7.16	(-)30.6	27.03	(-)11.1

(c) There are physical constraints such as draft restriction, lock gate system at Kolkata Dock System and Mumbai Port Trust. To streamline the existing cargo handling system in the Major Ports, in general, following steps have been taken :—

i. Modernisation of equipment consistent with emerging cargo mix.

ii. Changes in operating system and extension of better facilities to trade.

iii. Computerisation.

iv. Reduction in number of labour and employees.

v. Increased role of private sector.

Fund for development of waterways

3757. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have been funding the State Governments for construction/development of waterways;

(b) if so, the States where waterways are being constructed/developed with Central assistance, at present;

(c) the allocation of fund made for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the progress of each waterway till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme for the Inland Water Transport sector there exists a provision for loan